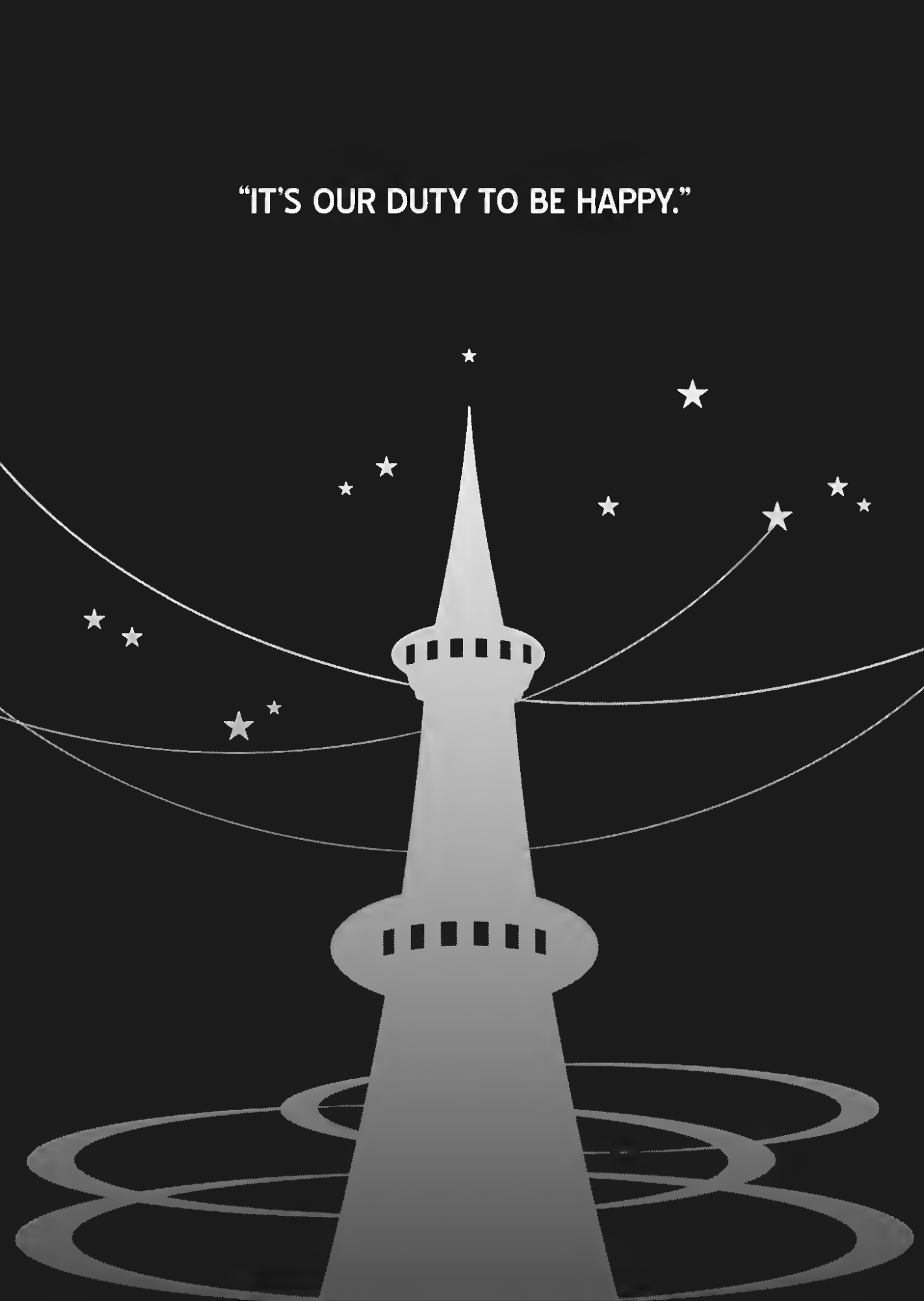
"IT'S OUR DUTY TO BE HAPPY."

IT'S OUR DUTY TO BE HAPPY!
IT'S OUR DUTY TO BE HAPPY!
ARE YOU HAPPY?
IT'S OUR DUTY, YOU KNOW!
ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO YOUR PART?

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BECAUSE IF YOU AREN'T...
こちら、幸福安心委員会です。
THIS IS THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF MIND COMMITTEE.
Happiness Op. 1
MANGA - MAYU KOSUGI
Original Concept - Utata P
Character Design - wogura
Story - Tory Hitsuji (Published by: PHP Institute, Inc.)
ONLY HAPPINESS IS ALLOWED. IS THIS "PERFECT WORLD" REALLY A UTOPIA...?

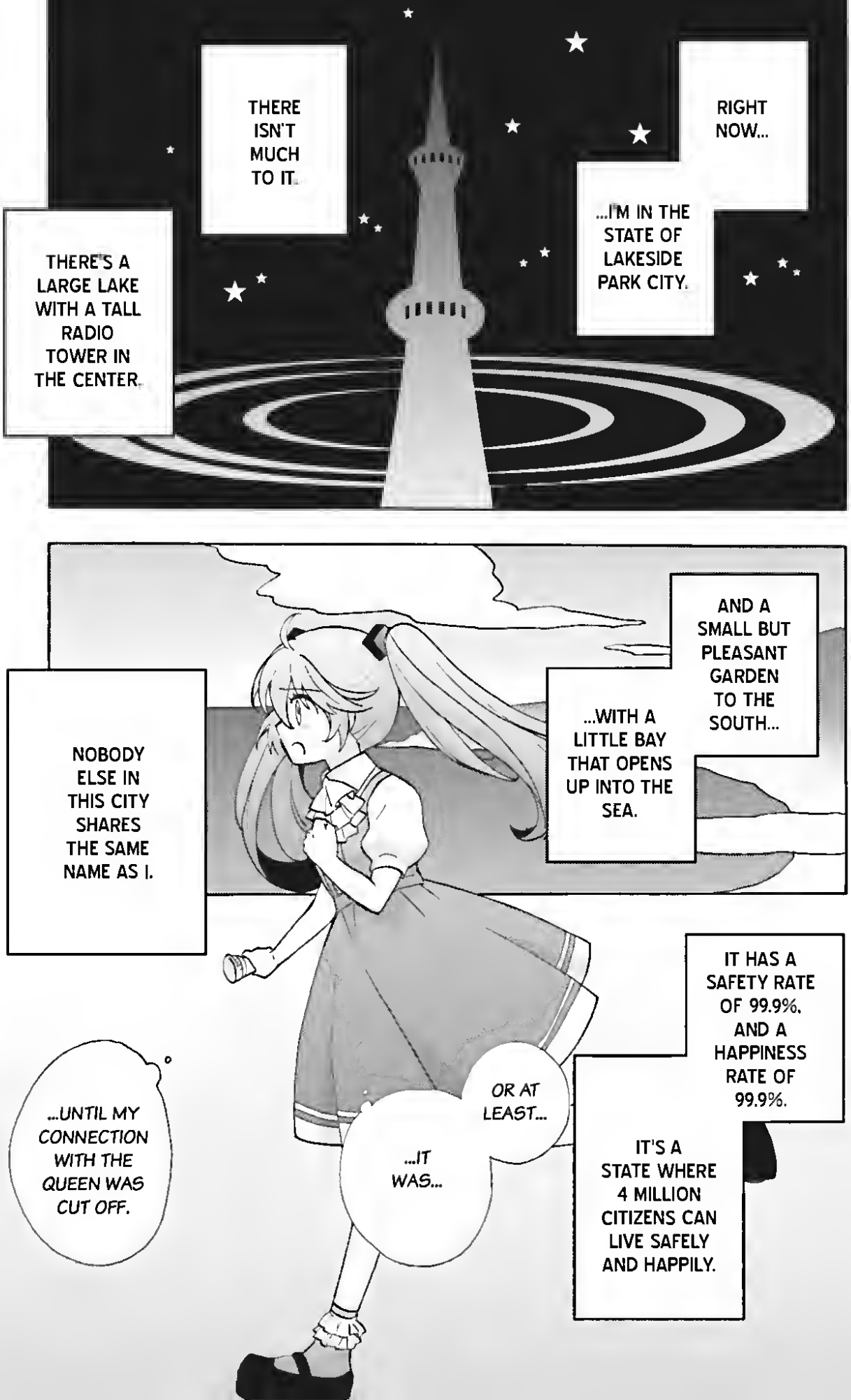
HAPPINESS!
PERFECT HAPPI-NESS!
PERFECT HAPPI-NESS!
HER MAJESTY!!
WE ARE COMPLETELY HAPPY!!
HER MAJESTY!!

CHOOSE ANYTHING YOU LIKE.
SAWING...
CRUCI-FIXION...
BURNING ALIVE...
BURYING ALIVE...
POISONING...
STONING...
STRANGU-LATION...
BEHEAD-ING...
FIRING SQUAD...
BOILING ALIVE...
DROWN-ING...
ELEC-TRICITY...

PLEASE!
ELECTRICITY!
HAPPY ELECTRICITY, PLEASE!

HER MAJESTY!
A FREE AND GLORIOUS EXECUTION!
...AND MANY OTHER CRIMES...
WE ARE COMPLETELY HAPPY!
QUEEN SIREN
ENACTED
...THE SPREADING OF SEEDS OF UNHAPPINESS...
DUE TO INFORMATION MANIPULATION...
...AND CITIZEN-DIRECTED PROPAGANDA...
WE ARE COMPLETELY HAPPY!

MY NAME IS ONDINE.
WHAT AN UNSTABLE AREA!
OH DEAR ...


THERE'S A LARGE LAKE WITH A TALL RADIO TOWER IN THE CENTER.
THERE ISN'T MUCH TO IT.
...I'M IN THE STATE OF LAKESIDE PARK CITY.
RIGHT NOW...
NOBODY ELSE IN THIS CITY SHARES THE SAME NAME AS I.
...WITH A LITTLE BAY THAT OPENS UP INTO THE SEA.
AND A SMALL BUT PLEASANT GARDEN TO THE SOUTH...
...UNTIL MY CONNECTION WITH THE QUEEN WAS CUT OFF.
...IT WAS...
OR AT LEAST...
IT HAS A SAFETY RATE OF 99.9%, AND A HAPPINESS RATE OF 99.9%.
IT'S A STATE WHERE 4 MILLION CITIZENS CAN LIVE SAFELY AND HAPPILY.

...THE ABSOLUTE RULER WHO OVERSEAS THE HAPPINESS OF THIS CITY.
QUEEN SIREN...
ONDINE ARE LIKE THE QUEEN'S VASSALS.
WE LISTEN TO HER VOICE...
...AND TRANSMIT EVERYTHING THAT WE SEE AND HEAR BACK TO HER.
ONDINE ARE INNUMERABLE...
...BUT I AM SPECIAL AMONG THEM.

IF ONLY THE QUEEN'S WAVES COULD REACH ME...
...EVERY-THING WOULD BE OKAY.
BUT THE RADIO WAVES WON'T REACH THIS SPOT.
I CAN'T CHECK MY MAP, EITHER...
...SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.
I...
I FEEL AS HELP-LESS AS A CHILD.
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

UHH...
OH...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING...
...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME.
WH-
WHY...?
UH...
...
UMM...
...
I--
NO...
...IT'S OK.

WH-
WHY?
YEAH.
I THINK I UNDER-STAND.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU UNDER-STAND?
FOLLOW ME.
DON'T ASK THE SAME STUPID QUESTIONS OVER AND OVER.
YOU'RE LOST, RIGHT?
YOU CAME OUT FROM THE CENTER DISTRICT TO GO SHOP-PING...
THEN YOU COULDN'T FIND YOUR WAY BACK...
... RIGHT?
L-LOST ?
BUT...

A THINKPHONE ...
ORDINARY CITIZENS CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM...
HARD TO BELIEVE YOU DON'T HAVE...
...A THINKPHONE, THOUGH.
THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF MIND COMMITTEE MAINTAINS THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF MIND OF OUR CITY.
...BUT WE DON'T NEED THEM.
NORMALLY, WE'RE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE QUEEN WITHOUT THE USE OF SUCH TOOLS.
FOR IT IS OUR DUTY TO WATCH OVER THE CITIZENS AND THE COMMITTEE.
A MOST PRESTIGIOUS PRIVILEGE IS BESTOWED UPON THE ONDINE.

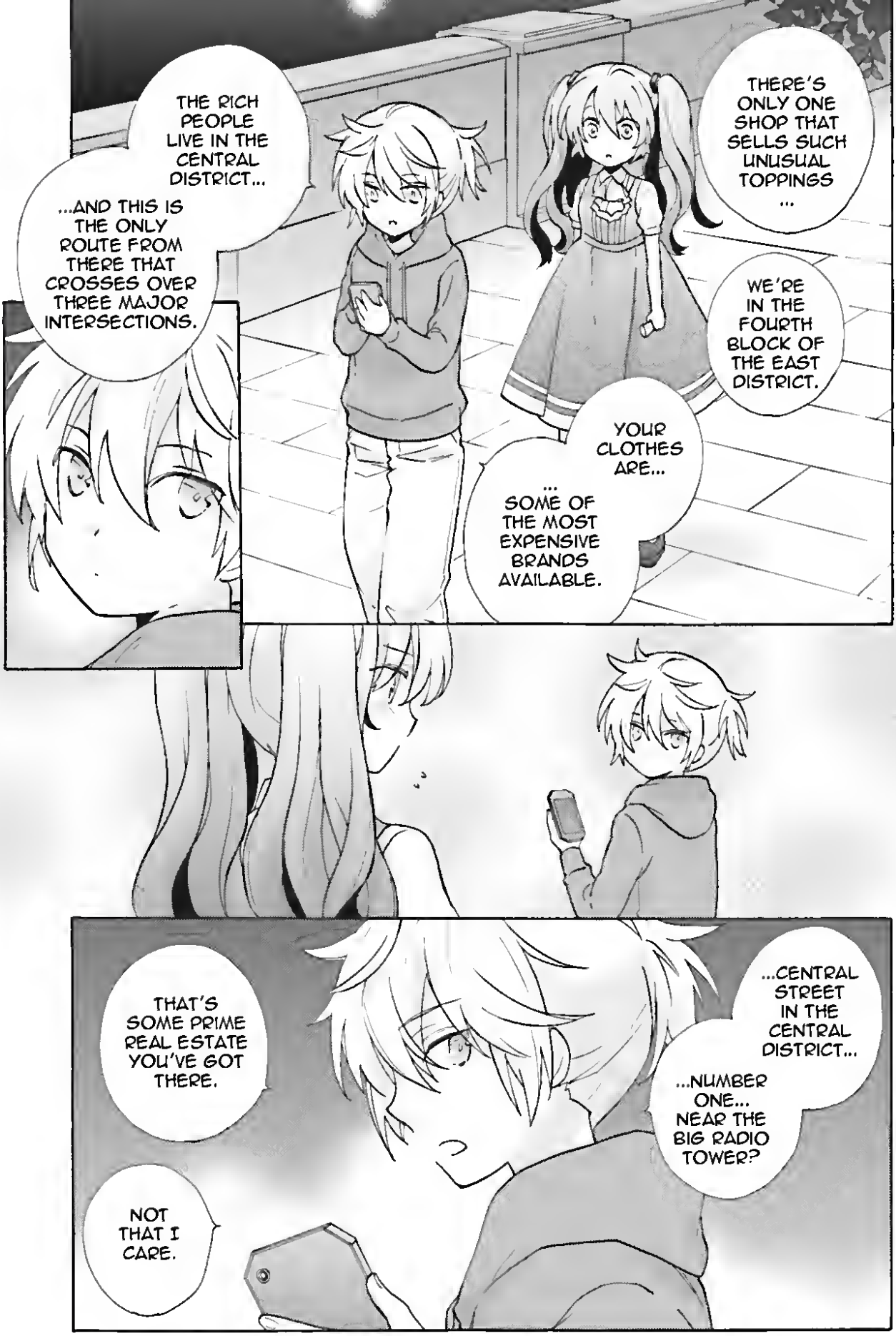
...WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
N-
NAME?
IF YOU WANT TO GET BACK TO YOUR HOUSE, THEN WALK.
は。
YOU THINK STANDING THERE IN A DAZE WILL SOLVE ANYTHING?
BUT JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU...
...I CAN SEE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A LABEL OR A NAME PLATE.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I ASK.
YOUR NAME.
DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU DON'T HAVE ONE.
WHEN ASKING A LADY HER NAME, IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT YOU...
Y-
YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME FIRST.

IT'S LEN.
LEN KINAMI.
SO TELL ME YOUR NAME.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU MINE.
...
I SAID IT TWICE ALREADY.
I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN.
YOU SHOULD HAVE IT DOWN BY NOW UNLESS YOU'RE A TOTAL IDIOT...
I'M NOT AN IDIOT!
HE'S SUCH A JERK!
BUT...
...HIS EYES ARE SUCH A PRETTY COLOR.

...
ONDINE.
NORMALLY ...
I'D HAVE HIM EXECUTED FOR SUCH INSOLENCE!
WHAT?
WHAT?
YOUR BEST GUESS IS FINE IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER.
SO, ONDINE ...
HOW MANY INTERSECTIONS WITH TRAFFIC LIGHTS DID YOU CROSS ON THE WAY HERE?
HMM. THAT'S AN UNUSUAL NAME.
ARE YOU... ... LOOKING AT A MAP? WITH YOUR THINK-PHONE?
YOU CAN TELL JUST FROM THAT?
JUST ANSWER ME.

...THREE.
OK.
WHAT IS THAT?
IT LOOKS REALLY OLD...
IT'S AN APP I GOT FROM THE LEGACYNET.
IT LOOKED FUN, SO I TAUGHT MYSELF HOW TO USE IT.
I KNOW IT'S A BIT OLD FASHION, BUT KNOWING HOW TO READ A COMPASS ...
...CAN COME IN HANDY SOMETIMES.
I SEE.

WAIT!
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE I WANT TO GO?
DO YOU REALLY NEED ME TO EX-PLAIN?
JEEZ...
W-
WAIT!
OK.
LET'S GO. THIS WAY.
スタスタ
YOU ORDERED CHOCOLATE CHIPS...
...AND GREEN SHALLOTS...
...AKA GREEN ONIONS.
WHA...
WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND IS...
..AN ICE CREAM CONE FROM THIRTY-NINE, WHICH JUST OPENED.
HUH?
THE ICE CREAM ON IT IS STILL MELTING.
WHAT?


THERE'S ONLY ONE SHOP THAT SELLS SUCH UNUSUAL TOPPINGS ...
WE'RE IN THE FOURTH BLOCK OF THE EAST DISTRICT.
YOUR CLOTHES ARE...
... SOME OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE BRANDS AVAILABLE.
THE RICH PEOPLE LIVE IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT...
...AND THIS IS THE ONLY ROUTE FROM THERE THAT CROSSES OVER THREE MAJOR INTERSECTIONS.
...CENTRAL STREET IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT...
...NUMBER ONE... NEAR THE BIG RADIO TOWER?
THAT'S SOME PRIME REAL ESTATE YOU'VE GOT THERE.
NOT THAT I CARE.

IT'S NOT A VERY GOOD AREA.
THE RADIO WAVES GET A LOT OF INTERFERENCE AROUND HERE.
KEEP CLOSE TO THE STREET.
THE ALLEYS AROUND HERE ARE CRAWLING WITH HOODLUMS.
MAL-CONTENTS, YOU MEAN?
YEAH, THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT.

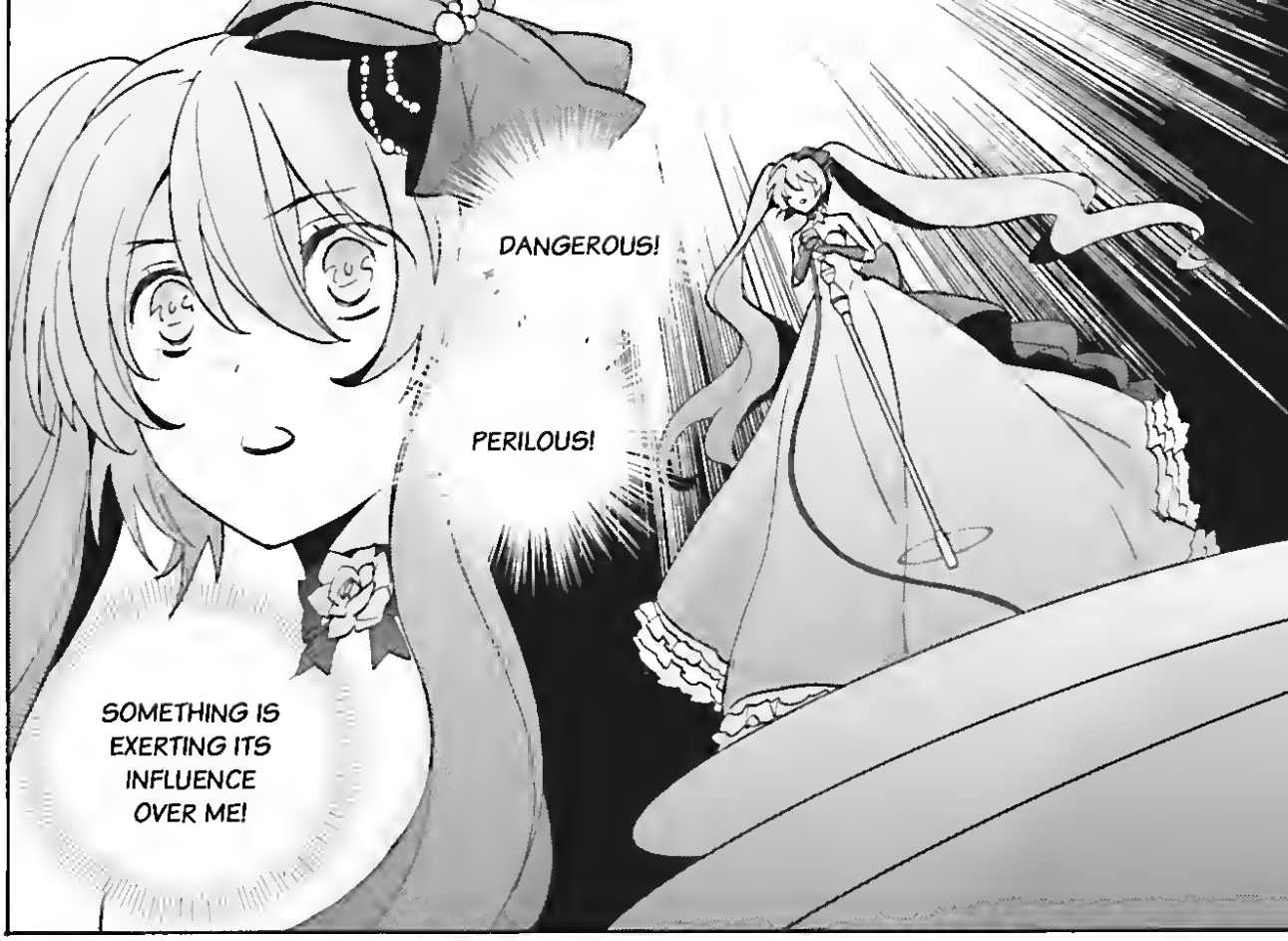
THE 0.1% OF THIS PARK CITY...
...THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DISCONTENT AND UNHAPPY...
THE PEOPLE WHO NEVER BOTHERED TO TRY AND NEVER CARED THAT THEY DIDN'T...
THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE OUT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON HAPPY PEOPLE...
FOR EXAMPLE...
...PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
AND THAT'S OUR JOB.
TO WATCH THOSE PEOPLE...
...AND SEND REPORTS TO THE QUEEN.

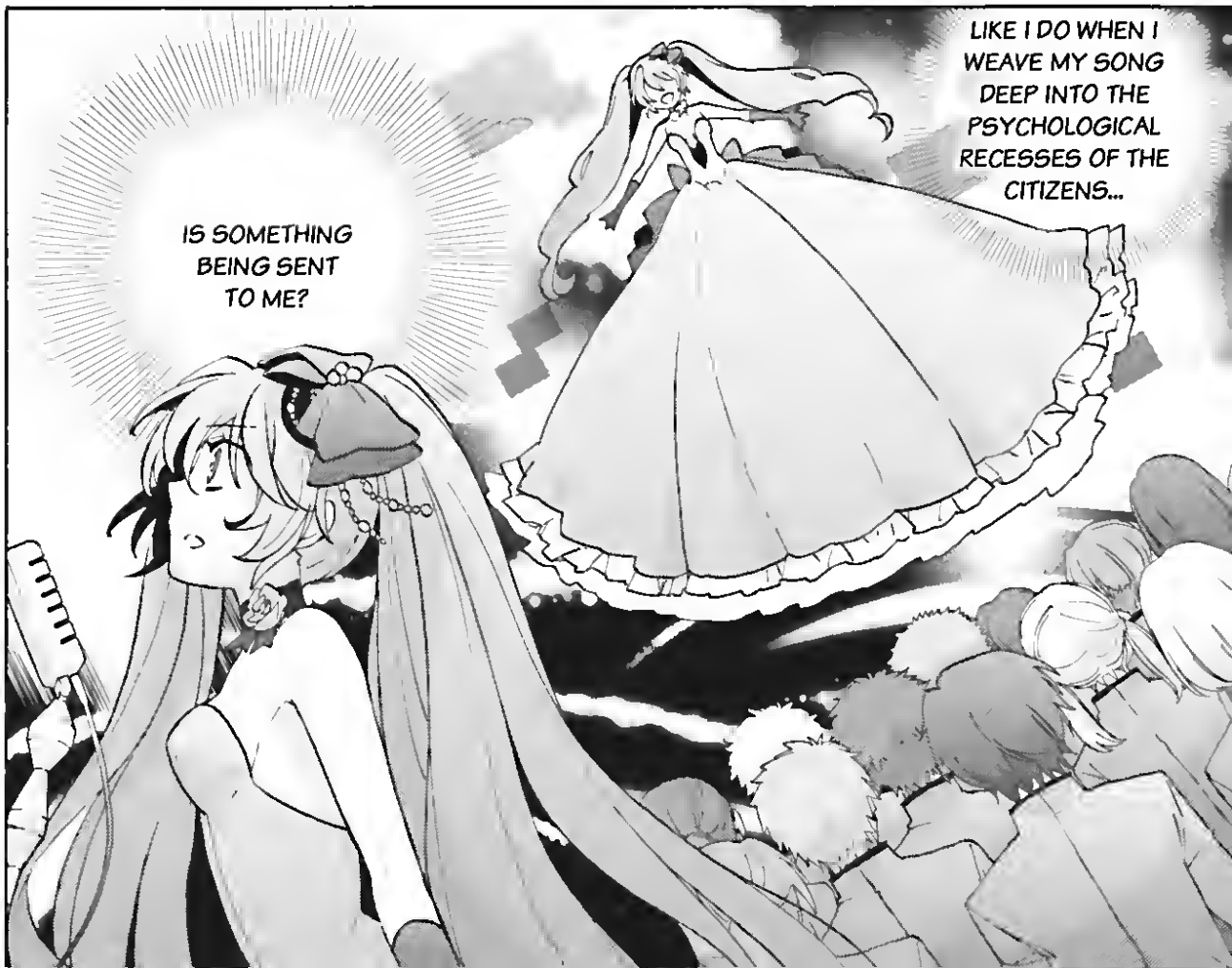
...YOU'RE A SLOW WALKER.
UGH! GIRLS ARE SO ANNOYING!
JUST KEEP WALKING THIS WAY...
...AND YOU SHOULD BE FINE.
SO HE SAYS...
...BUT HE'S MATCHING HIS FOOT-STEPS TO MINE.

HE SHOULD JUST...
...SMILE.
...I'VE NEVER FELT ANY-THING LIKE THIS...
...NOT ONCE SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN FROM THE RADIO TOWER.
SO WARM...
...AND MYSTERI-OUS.
THIS FEEL-ING...

WHAT IS THIS?
I'M SPECIAL.
A NORMAL CITIZEN SHOULDN'T BE MAKING ME FEEL LIKE THIS.
IT'S STRANGE.
I'M EMBAR-RASSED.
BUT...

I WANT...
...TO KEEP FEELING...
...THIS WARMTH.


DANGEROUS!
PERILOUS!
SOMETHING IS EXERTING ITS INFLUENCE OVER ME!


LIKE I DO WHEN I WEAVE MY SONG DEEP INTO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL RECESSES OF THE CITIZENS...
IS SOMETHING BEING SENT TO ME?

WHO COULD IT BE?
AND WHAT ARE THEY SENDING?

LEN'S VISION THREATENS SIREN!!
WHERE IS THIS INVINCIBLE SMILE COMING FROM?!